

# 1946

## Bombing of the King David Hotel



1. It occurred on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 1946
2. It occurred at the King David Hotel, the site of the central offices of the British Mandatory authorities of Palestine.
3. It was carried out by the Irgun
4. Irgun is a Jewish terrorist group. Their main aims were to free Palestine from British control.
5. Irgun committed the bombing in response to Operation Agatha, known within Israel as 'Black Saturday'. British troops had searched the Jewish Agency on June 29 and confiscated large quantities of documents about the group's operations and links with violent groups. The intelligence information was taken to the King David Hotel building in Jerusalem. Specifically, the Irgun aimed at destroying the southern wing of the hotel, which housed the Mandate's intelligence records about Irgun, the Hagana, Lehi, and other Jewish paramilitary groups.
6. The perpetrators set the bombs, and then detonated a small explosive in the street outside, reportedly to keep passers-by away from the area, although this act actually caused a higher death toll, as it drew the people within the hotel to its south-west corner, just above the bomb in the basement. It was also the reason for some Arabs, injured after the explosive caused their bus to roll over. During the attack there were also 2 Irgun casualties.
7. Bombing, mass casualty, mass disruption
8. The attack inflamed public opinion in Britain, and there was a lot of outrage. There was worldwide condemnation. The Jewish political leadership denied knowing about or authorising the attack.
9. This attack had a significant impact, particularly as the victims were British officials and administrators. It showed the world that no-one was immune and that there were people willing to resort to violence and killing to achieve their goals. It was one of the first attacks of its kind. For the Jews, in the short term the British controlled them more harshly and a lot of arrests were made. In the long term, they got what they wanted when the UN declared the existence of Israel, and the British withdrew.